



General Plan Advisory Committee

Riverside County 2008 General Plan Update

MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: May 6, 2009, 9:00 AM

Location: County Administrative Center, Room 5C

Members Present: Dennis Chinaeff (Chair), Joseph A. Richards (Vice Chair), Mark Balys, John Criste (by videoconference, Desert location), Michelle Randall, John Snell, Matt Webb, George Hague and Steve Pastor (Alt. for Steve Corona)

Members Absent: Barry Burnell, Tom Kirk, Bill Blankenship, Steve Robbins, Stan Skipworth and Ronald Sullivan

County Present: George Johnson, Ron Goldman, Damian Meins, Jerry Jolliffe, Mihn Tran, Mike Gialdini (videoconference from Desert location), Mitra Mehta-Cooper, Josh Lee, Cindy Thielman-Braun, Phayvanh Nanthavongdouangsy, Marc Brewer, Eric Frykman, Susan Harrington and Michael Osur

Guests Present: Dan Silver, Sandy Jackson, Frank Guerrero, Henry Excalera, John Baranek, Eugene Hikel, Pat Ratliff, Clinton E. Stoutenburgh, Joyse Schwartz, Ralph Hileman, Cynthia Ferry, Stephen Anderson, Trip Hord and Cash Hovivian, Kathy Smigun and Jeannette Bieber. By videoconference from the Desert location: Norman Cady and Gale Cady

1. **Call to Order:** GPAC Chair, Dennis Chinaeff, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Member Balys to approve minutes from previous meeting (March 11, 2009) and seconded by John Snell. Approved unanimously.
3. **Roll Call:** Roll call of GPAC members in attendance. See list, above.
4. **Oral Communications:** A number of attendees wished to speak about Reinhardt Canyon. It was decided to defer such comments until the item was discussed under Old Business. One additional speaker, Gale Cady (from the desert office) spoke by videoconference on her concerns about GPA 960 coordinating with CVAG's Non-Motorized Transport Plan, page 166 in particular, in regards to the "elimination of equestrian trails in Coachella Valley."
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Response to Comments:** Mitra Mehta-Cooper, Principal Planner Riverside County, presented letters received since last meeting: email from GPAC Member George Hague (March 27, 2009); letters regarding Reinhardt Canyon from Kathy Smigun (undated); Gary and Jeannette Bieber (April 7, 2009); Antonio J. Criscenti (undated); and a letter

with a packet of informational items and articles related to Reinhardt Canyon was submitted by Cash Hovivian (undated).

Several letters received after the deadline were distributed at the meeting: two letters from GPAC Member George Hague re climate change/greenhouse gases and Specific Plan 342 (Villages at Lakeview); Endangered Habitats League re Open Space Conservation Element; Bob Hewitt re northeast dairies policies. Two letters were also received and distributed directly at the meeting: Clinton E. Stoutenburgh (undated) re Reinhardt Canyon; and George Hague (May 6, 2009) re air quality.

Minh Tran from County Counsel's Office also spoke reiterating the role of GPAC in the General Plan update process. Specifically, GPAC is empowered to review items proposed for the update via GPA 960 and does not have discretion over any other County projects, including Specific Plans, etc.

Upon conclusion of staff's response to letters received, the Chair opened the floor to questions and statements from the audience wishing to speak regarding Reinhardt Canyon. Several people spoke on the issue: Cash Hovivian, Kathy Smigun, Jeannette Bieber and Eugene Hikel. They were community members from the area and all wished to see Reinhardt Canyon remain rural and undeveloped.

b. Action Items from Last Meeting: The following items were carried over for discussion and possible action from the prior meeting.

i. Agriculture / Development Potential Study Area: Mitra Mehta-Cooper, County Planning, presented summary and review of prior discussion on this issue. She restated Staff's recommendation that the Study Area be deleted from the Area Plan and that any agriculture conversion concerns be addressed through policies of the Land Use and/or Open Space Elements. GPAC members extensively discussed the item, as well as the wider policy concerns regarding agriculture conversion. Dan Silver, from the Endangered Habitats League, stated his organization supports staff's recommendation.

Action: Member Snell made a motion to accept staff's recommendation, seconded by Member Webb. Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

6. New Business:

a. Presentations:

i. Project CEQA Processing and Environmental Issues: Cindy Thielman-Braun, County Planning, present an overview of the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as they apply to the General Plan Update project. Discussed the environmental issues to be addressed via an Environmental Impact Report and reviewed the anticipated timeline for preparation of the report. The presentation concluded with questions from both the GPAC and audience.

- ii. Trails Update:** Jerry Jolliffe, County Planning, with assistance from Marc Brewer, County Parks Department, presented an overview of the General Plan revisions proposed to address trails. The update will address trail types and development standards, trail alignments and requirements, as well as implementation and maintenance issues. The presentation concluded with questions and comments from both the GPAC and audience. Harry Escalera, representing the Jurupa Valley Parks and Recreation District, commented on the proposal and asked that the County coordinate closely with the Districts.

- b. Information Items:** After a 5-minute break, the GPAC reconvened and the Chair agreed to delay discussion on the agenda's information items in order to ensure adequate time was available for addressing the meeting's scheduled action items.

- c. Discussion - Proposed Action Items:** *(Voting actions require quorum)*

 - i. Proposed "Healthy Communities Element":** Eric Frykman, MD, Director of the County Community Health Agency presented an overview of the new Element and its companion Appendix M, discussed their contents and explained how they would enhance the County's efforts to foster healthy communities. Dr. Frykman stressed that the Element addresses mainly what's "possible," rather than what's "ideal," but represents a strong introduction and foundation for implementing new County-wide policies related to health. His presentation concluded with questions and comments from both the GPAC and audience.

Action - Motion was made by Member Snell to support staff's recommendation to include the proposed Healthy Communities Element and associated Appendix M in the updated General Plan. Seconded by Member Richards and passed 8 to 1 (opposed by George Hague because it "does not go far enough").

- ii. Sphere of Influence Coordination Policies (Land Use and Administration Elements):** Josh Lee, County Planning, presented an overview of staff's proposal to revise and add to these Elements. GPAC discussed the item, requesting clarification of the various items in the policy.

Action - Motion was made by Member Snell to support staff's recommended text with the removal of item #4 of the text (requirement for being within 200 feet of an existing sewer line). Motion seconded by Member Balys and passed unanimously 9 to 0.

- iii. Indian Fee Land Policies:** Josh Lee, County Planning, presented the proposed policy and explained that it is necessary to provide guidance for an area not previously addressed clearly in the General Plan. Specifically, the policy will provide guidance for assigning a land use designations for land previous under only tribal control, should such lands come before the County for discretionary actions via fee lands. After GPAC members voiced a number of questions and concerns, Minh Tran, from the County Counsel's Office, clarified that the policy arose because fee lands, being subject to County taxation, should also have an equivalent level of representation at the General Plan level to ensure that the taxpayers' rights are pro-

ected in a manner equivalent to any other landowner subject to County jurisdiction. He also stressed that the policy only applied to *non-Indian* owned lands within unincorporated Riverside County and that nothing in the policy would affect or infringe upon any Tribal rights or sovereignty.

Action - Motion made by Member Snell to support Planning staff's recommendation. Seconded by Member Balys and passed unanimously 9 to 0.

- iv. **Good Hope Rural Village Study Area:** Josh Lee, County Planning, presented the proposed policy revision and explained how it would provide for an orderly and appropriate level of growth in an area subject to urbanization pressures from surrounding cities.

Action - Motion was made by Member Webb to support Planning staff's recommendation and seconded by Member Pastor. It was passed with 7 to 1 vote with George Hague opposing the motion.

- v. **Northeast Dairies Policy Area:** This item was discussed with the specification that no vote on the matter could be taken at this meeting due to lack of quorum. In addition, GPAC Member Matt Webb recused himself from the discussion due to a conflict of interest. He left the room for the duration of the discussion. Josh Lee, Planning Department, presented staff's proposal to add language of a policy overlay to remedy future agricultural conversion issues in the areas North of Ramona Expressway.

Action - None due to lack of quorum. The item will be rescheduled for review and action at the next GPAC meeting.

- vi. **Chiriaco Summit Rural Village Overlay:** This item was discussed with the specification that no vote on the matter could be taken at this meeting due to lack of quorum. Josh Lee, Planning Department, presented staff's proposal to correct the mapping error of 2003 General Plan Chiriaco Rural Village Overlay and change the overlay to an existing "Planned Community Policy Area".

Action - Motion was made by Member Snell to support Planning staff's recommendation. Seconded by Member Balys and passed unanimously 8 to 0.

5. **GPAC Member Comments and Staff Announcements:** No GPAC Members had any additional comments to add at this time. The proposed date for the next GPAC meeting was discussed. Because of a conflict on June 17th, the committee agreed to meet on June 18th instead.

6. **Public Comments:** None

Adjournment: Chair Chinaeff adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m. to June 18, 2009, at 9 a.m., in Room 5C or other room (to be announced) if 5C is unavailable.